September 17, 2018

Steve Reinke, Executive Director
SPOCOM
1116 W. Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

Dear Mr. Reinke:

The Spokane City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2017-0080 (Sept. 11, 2017), which authorized the City of Spokane to explore the potential integration of 911 Emergency Communications, Dispatch, Crime Check and emergency communications. The resolution also provided that “if anticipated savings and efficiencies are not realized or anticipated in financial and operational implementation plans, the City of Spokane may elect not to proceed” with integration of emergency communications. The existence or likelihood of these savings and efficiencies remains an open question.

Subsequently, the Spokane City Council adopted Resolution 2018-0039 (May 14, 2018), which stated its desire that if the City of Spokane is represented on the SPOCOM governing board, that representation is to “be in direct proportion to the number of calls for service” generated within the city of Spokane. Previous contracts for service between the City of Spokane and other agencies indicate that at least 60% of emergency response calls originate within Spokane.

Therefore, in accordance with the Spokane City Council’s adopted resolutions, this letter serves as an official request for proportional representation on the SPOCOM Governing Board for the City of Spokane based on the number of calls for service originating in the city of Spokane.

Most integrated systems across the state are governed by boards made up of elected officials that have the ability to champion legislative policy changes, provide level of service oversight, and recommend to their respective budget authorities jurisdictional funding formulas that reflect fairness to their taxpayers. The City of Spokane believes the current composition of the SPOCOM Governing Board lacks critical oversight and accountability elements to city taxpayers and City of Spokane employees.

We strongly urge the current SPOCOM Governing Board to add three City of Spokane elected officials as voting members to the current eleven member governing board.

Sincerely yours,
Enclosures (2)